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By: **Delegate Taylor**  
Introduced and read first time: March 8, 2004  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Folic Acid Distribution**  
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to  
5 establish a program to distribute folic acid dietary supplements to women of  
6 childbearing age; providing for the purpose of the program; requiring the  
7 program to provide certain supplements and certain counseling and information  
8 to certain individuals; requiring local health departments to distribute certain  
9 supplements and to provide certain counseling and information; requiring the  
10 program to be funded in the State budget; authorizing the Department to use  
11 money appropriated for a certain federal program to fund the program and to  
12 use money from any other lawful source; and generally relating to a folic acid  
13 distribution program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article - Health - General  
16 Section 13-2101 through 13-2103 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 21.  
17 Folic Acid Distribution Program"  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article - Health - General**

23 **SUBTITLE 21. FOLIC ACID DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

24 13-2101.

25 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE" MEANS WOMEN BETWEEN  
26 THE AGES OF 15 TO 45 YEARS OLD WHO QUALIFY FOR THE FEDERAL WOMEN,  
27 INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM.

1 13-2102.

2 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE FOLIC  
3 ACID DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS TO WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE.

4 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CASES  
5 OF NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS AND OTHER BIRTH DEFECTS IN CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

6 (C) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO WOMEN OF  
7 CHILDBEARING AGE:

8 (1) FOLIC ACID DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS;

9 (2) COUNSELING AND WRITTEN INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
10 PROPER USE OF THE SUPPLEMENTS; AND

11 (3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PRENATAL CARE THAT THE  
12 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
13 SUBTITLE.

14 (D) LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FOLIC ACID  
15 DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND PROVIDE THE COUNSELING AND WRITTEN  
16 INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

17 13-2103.

18 (A) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

19 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE FEDERAL  
20 WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM AND FROM ANY OTHER LAWFUL  
21 SOURCE TO FUND THE PROGRAM.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2004.